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AUG 23 2006

Remarks:

These remarks are responsive to the final Office action dated June 23, 2006. As noted in the Office action, claims 1-6, 8-14, 16, and 17 remain pending in the present application. Claims 1-6, 8-9, 12-14, and 16-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,894,318 to Endo *et al.* (Endo) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,549,803 to Ohno *et al.* (Ohno). Claims 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Endo in view of Ohno and Fukushima.

Clarification of language of Claim 5

Applicants note that the claim language of previously-amended claim 5 is consistent with the written description and the drawings and is supported at, for example, page 5 of the written description, lines 29-31, which discloses that composite media may be identified in various ways. Composite media, as recited at page 5, lines 29-31, includes, for example, "a document sandwiched between sheets of laminating material." (Page 3, lines 18-20). Thus, identifying the media sheet in addition to the laminate is discussed in the specification.

Claim Rejections

As noted above, all of the pending claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of a combination of at least Endo with Ohno (the rejections of claims 10 and 11 also includes Fukushima). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

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Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-12, 13-14, and 16-17

Applicants believe that the combination of Endo with Ohno is inappropriate and does not make obvious the subject matter of the pending claims. Ohno does not provide the claim element for which the Examiner cites the reference, and Ohno is not of the same field of endeavor as Endo, as it does not address the same technical problem.

First, the rejections in view of Endo and Ohno are inappropriate because Ohno does not provide the claim elements missing from Endo. The Office action states that "Ohno *et al.* teaches changing the characteristics of the toner fuser...when laminating a document with laminating material (column 6, lines 44-55)." (Final Office action, pg. 3). Applicants have reviewed the cited passage, and the rest of Ohno, and disagree with this characterization of the subject matter of Ohno. Though Ohno discusses, in the cited section, changing the temperature and speed of a roller in a printer, Ohno does so in the context of determining the best conditions for fixing color toner on an overhead projector sheet. As stated in the Summary of the Invention of Ohno: "The present invention is therefore aimed at a recording apparatus...which can increase the ability of fixation of images, particularly color images to synthetic resin films." (Ohno, col. 3, lines 19-24). As such, Ohno does not teach adjusting the temperature and speed of a toner fuser when laminating a document.

Second, the rejections in view of Endo and Ohno are inappropriate because Ohno is not analogous art with Endo and the present disclosure when the disclosure of Ohno is considered as a whole, as it must be. MPEP § 2141.02. As well, not only is Ohno non-analogous art with Endo and applicants' claimed invention, Ohno teaches away from its

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combination with Endo. While Ohno is structurally similar to Endo and applicants' claimed invention, the problem solved in Ohno is not of the same field of endeavor as Endo and the claimed invention. As noted above, Ohno is directed toward determining the optimal conditions useful for fixing toner to a resin-based overhead projector sheet. In contrast, the claimed invention is directed toward partially melting, and fixing together, a resin sheet with another resin sheet or with a media sheet.

That Ohno is directed toward identifying and solving a different problem than are Endo and the claimed invention is made clearer by Ohno's teaching away from the solutions arrived at by Endo. In switching from a printing mode to a laminating mode, Endo teaches that one should increase a temperature within a printing device and slow down a transport speed by about 90% (Endo, col. 11, lines 25-35). In contrast, Ohno teaches switching from printing on paper to printing on a resin sheet. In doing so, Ohno teaches that one should slow down the transport speed by about 80% but also decrease the temperature. (Ohno, col. 8, lines 27-42). In other words, Ohno teaches altered resin-printing conditions that are incompatible with performing a lamination function in a printer. This makes clear that Ohno attempts to, and does, solve a different problem than Endo, and thus is not analogous art to Endo and the claimed invention.

Because Ohno is directed to solving a different technical problem than is Endo, and because Ohno teaches away from a combination with Endo, applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-4, 6-8, and 12 be withdrawn and the pending claims allowed. The rejections of claims 10 and 11 were made based on the same combination,

with the addition of Fukushima, and suffer from the same flaw. Thus, the rejections of those claims should be withdrawn and claims 10 and 11 should be allowed, as well.

Claim 5

As noted above, claim 5 recites that the pressure of the toner fuser is adjusted "based on identifying the media sheet and the laminate material sheet." Applicants note that neither Endo nor Ohno discloses adjusting a pressure applied by a toner fuser much less adjusting the pressure of the toner fuser based on identified media. Thus, neither Endo nor Ohno, nor the combination of them, can make obvious the subject matter of the pending claim. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 and allowance of the pending claim.

Claim 9

Claim 9 was rejected in view of Endo and Ohno because, in the Office action, a manual feed tray is an automatic feed tray. Applicants believe that the plain meanings of "manual" and "automatic" are being disregarded to facilitate this rejection. The Office action concedes that a manual feed tray is not an automatic feed tray when it states that "the user inserts a media sheet." (Office action, pg. 4). An automatic feed tray, as recited in claim 9, does not require a user to insert a media sheet immediately prior to performing a laminating function, as it already contains the necessary materials and can be used as a source of materials independently of a "user insert[ing] a media sheet." Applicants' specification is consistent with the different meanings of "automatic" and "manual" feed trays. An automatic feed tray is one that, for example, could be said to "store paper to be introduced into a media-transport path." (Specification, pg. 3, lines 1-2; Figures 1 and 2,

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elements 22). A manual feed tray, on the other hand, is one into which a user must place media just prior to its being used in a device. (Specification, pg. 8, lines 10-12; Figures 1 and 2, element 16). Because a manual feed tray is not an automatic feed tray, especially in view of the plain meanings of those terms to one of skill in the art, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 and allowance of the claim.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Respectfully submitted,

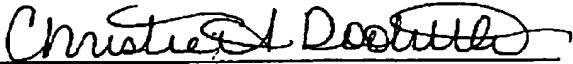
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Q. Grainger, Group Art Unit 2852, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, at facsimile number (571) 273-8300 on August 23, 2006.



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